

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 22, 23, and 24 are pending. Claims 2 and 22 are amended. Claims 1 and 3-21 are canceled. Support for the amendments to Claims 2 and 22 can be found in the specification on page 7, line 16 – page 8, line 12, for example. Support for newly added Claim 24 can be found in Fig. 5, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 3, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,844,094, herein “Kobayashi”).

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the courtesy of a personal interview granted by Primary Examiner Mark Ruthkosky to Applicants’ representative. In combination with the Interview Summary provided by Primary Examiner Ruthkosky, the substance of the personal interview is substantially provided below in accordance with MPEP § 713.04.

As discussed during the personal interview, Claims 2 and 22 are amended, in accordance with the claims ultimately allowed in the Japanese patent application, to recite that the pump is connected to the fuel supply unit so as to **give positive pressure to the tank and to supply liquid fuel to the anode.**

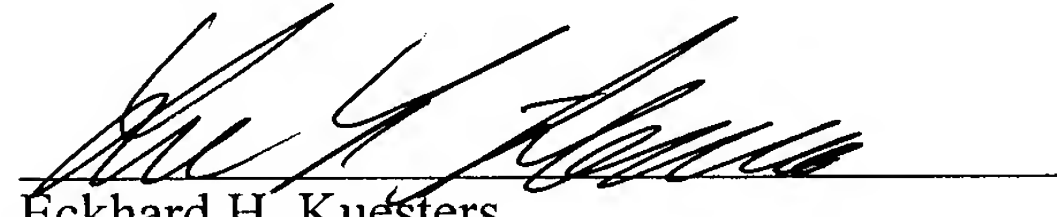
In contrast, the pump (24) of Kobayashi does not provide positive pressure to a tank supplying liquid fuel to an anode as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 22. Rather, the pump (24) shown in Fig. 1 of Kobayashi is connected downstream of one side of the fuel cell (1). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, as discussed during the personal interview, amended independent Claims 1 and 22 and the claims depending from Claim 22 patentably distinguish over Kobayashi for at least the reasons discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 2, 22, 23, and 24 is earnestly solicited.

Should Primary Examiner Ruthkosky deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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